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Don Iddon's Diary—Page 4

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"Ike" Surprises Diplomats

ANTICIPATES AN APPOINTMENT

Washington, Nov. 8. North Atlantic diplomats today expressed surprise at reports that General Dwight Eisenhower had said in Fort Worth, Texas, that he would "soon be in Europe" as commander of the Western European defence forces.

They pointed out that though General Eisenhower would be welcomed as Supreme Commander of the North Atlantic, several steps had still to be taken before the office of Supreme Commander could be light into being, and before he could be appointed.

The Defence Ministers of the North Atlantic Powers were obliged last month to postpone the appointment owing to their failure to agree upon the structure of the proposed new North Atlantic army under the Supreme Commander.

Steps still to be taken include:

(1) Agreement by the North Atlantic Military Committee and the Council of Deputies regarding the structure of the new army and Germany's contribution to it.

(2) Decisions by the North Atlantic Defence Ministers concerning such agreements, creating the office of Supreme Commander, and nominating the commander who will provide the army.

(3) The decision of the President of the United States, assuring that the United States is invited to name the commander, as to the general to be chosen.

General Eisenhower made it clear that he expects to be invited to take the position and that he intends to accept.

US Destroyers In Collision

Norfolk, Va. Nov. 8. Two United States Navy destroyers collided early today 400 miles off Wilmington, North Carolina, killing four men. Three others were injured, two of them critically.

The Atlantic Fleet Headquarters reported the Brownson and the Charles H. Roan had collided while taking part in Atlantic Fleet exercises.

Both destroyers were damaged but neither was in danger of sinking, Reuter.

Skull Produced In Court

Brunswick, Germany, Nov. 8. A shattered skull was on Wednesday produced in court which is trying Rudolf Piel, confessed murderer of nine women and a man.

The skull was identified as that of an unknown woman Piel admitted killing in March, 1934, in the wooded Harz mountains with his alleged accomplice Karl Hoffman.

Piel has told the court he killed his victims to obtain sexual satisfaction.

Piel stated that Hoffman cut off the woman's head with a German paratrooper's knife and dragged the headless body across the nearby zone border into Russian-occupied Germany. A German witness testified that shortly after that time Hoffman offered him worn female underwear to trade for food.

Wednesday's testimony ended the hearing of witnesses. The verdict is expected on Nov. 16.—Associated Press.

Latest Soviet Proposal

Lake Success, Nov. 8. Russia today asked the United Nations to grant immediate independence to Eritrea and order the withdrawal of British troops from the former Italian colony within three months after the approval of the Soviet motion.

Dr. Arutunian, Soviet delegate to the Assembly's Special Political Committee, presented the formal resolution.

This proposed that Ethiopia "be given that part of Eritrea" necessary to secure Ethiopia's access to the sea through the port of Assab.—Reuter.

UN May Create No-Man's-Land In North Korea

1,000-Sortie Air Offensive Staged Yesterday

London, Nov. 8. United Nations forces in Korea may be told to stop at least 20 miles short of the Manchurian and Soviet border to avoid clashes with Chinese and Russian forces.

Official sources, who reported this tonight, said the big Western powers decided on a sort of No-Man's-Land a month ago and left it to the UN High Command to carry out. They did not apparently specify the depth to which the so-called buffer zone should extend.

But the original intention of creating the No-Man's-Land still stands, the informants said.

Western diplomats were said to believe that both the Russians and the Chinese have some justification in feeling nervous at the approach of foreign armies towards their borders.

One informant said: "Americans similarly would be worried if a foreign force occupied Mexico and marched towards the United States frontier. The British, too, could be expected to take some kind of precautionary action if unfriendly armies occupied the channel ports, no matter how often these forces proclaimed their intentions were quite peaceful."

Sometimes last month, directives were sent to General MacArthur's headquarters expressing the need to avoid any action which might be interpreted as provocative.

Both countries have a stake in the great electric grid system which lines their frontiers with Korea. Many of their cities and industries get their power from Korean power plants.—Associated Press.

POWERFUL AIR BLOWS

Tokyo, Nov. 9. Land-based fighter bombers and carrier planes were teamed today to smash the Chinese Communists already reeling backward from the blows of American air power.

Attacking through clear Korean skies from front lines to within sight of Manchuria, Air Force, Navy and Marine planes gave the Communists no respite

after Wednesday's 1,000 sorties air offensive, which included the fire-bombing of the border supply city and possible refugee capital of Sinuiju, and an American victory over Russian jet fighters in history's first jet-to-jet air combat.

There were new reports of Communist withdrawals but American officers said it was too early to say what they meant.

A Korean release issued by the General Headquarters at 10:40 today said:

"For the second straight day, the US Navy aircraft of Task Force 77 secured the entire breadth of North Korea south of the Manchurian border in search of military targets."

The primary targets for the skyriders, Corsairs and Panthers were rail and highway bridges, rolling stock, supplies and vehicles.

"Night intruder planes from the Far East Carrier Task Force combed highways in search of enemy troops and vehicle movements."

"Carrier-based US Marine pilots continued with attack operations in close support of ground forces in the Fusan area."

"Extensive minesweeping operations continued on both coasts of Korea under the cover of Navy guns and carrier-based aircraft."

"United States Navy ships at Wonsan, Iwon and Songjin stood by to render direct Naval gunfire support as necessary. The US destroyer, English, provided star-shell illumination of the Wonsan area during the night."

"US Navy Marine, Marines and P-2V Neptunes and Royal Air Force Sunderland flying boats were out on regular armed reconnaissance and anti-mine patrols."—United Press.

NO ENEMY IN SIGHT

First Corps Headquarters, Nov. 9. United Nations patrols penetrated as far as three miles into enemy territory on the northwest front without making heavy contact with the enemy, while the Air Force wiped out the town of Yongpyong and several nearby villages, a spokesman said today.

The spokesman said that reports from behind the enemy lines said the enemy troops had been changing into civilian clothes and staying in those towns. Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Chinese troops were reported to be in the area.

Moogul attacks in the 13th and 14th centuries.

Air liaison officers said that 600 enemy troops were killed in two air strikes on the night of Wednesday. The air strikes were reported to have destroyed that 14 tanks were destroyed and 14 enemy troops concentrated.

Two captured troops were reported killed south of Pukchun in front of the British 27th Brigade, and 400 at Chongchun in a village west of Pukchun.—United Press.

S'PORE PREPARES

Singapore, Nov. 9. The Singapore Police Force is preparing for the possibility of a large-scale demonstration by the Chinese community in the city, a police spokesman said today.

Chinese Guns Fire On Superforts

From Lionel Crane

Tokyo, Nov. 8. American Superforts were fired at by guns on the Manchurian side of the Yalu River when they made a saturation raid on the Korean border town of Sinuiju this afternoon.

All crews were definite about this when they returned to base in Japan tonight. They said that flak came from Sinuiju and Antung, the first town in Manchuria. They saw gun flashes particularly round the airport at Antung.

The guns were so small that the shells were unable to reach the American planes flying at 20,000 feet.

LT. Walker Wenger, who flew through Japanese anti-aircraft in the last war, told me, "Today's fire was only moderate and not a plane was hit."

Jet pilots escorting the bombers also saw Manchurian gun flashes but they had strict instructions not to return any such attack they paid no attention to it.

DELICATE JOB Today's attack was a most delicate piece of task-trigger bombing. The border between Manchuria and Korea runs through the center of the river and pilots were told to drop 1,000-lb. bombs on the southern half of two rail-ways bridges connecting the two countries. They did it by flying along the river and were so precise that hardly a splash crossed the border line.

When they left there was a big gap in the Trans-Siberian Railway which runs across the river and ends at Puyun.

Meanwhile 70 other bombers rained 85,000 incendiaries on Sinuiju, a town of 100,000 inhabitants which has become the main supply base for the invading Chinese.

Latest reports say that Sinuiju which was the new North Korean capital is a complete wreck except for areas around the airport and hospital, which the bombers avoided.

If necessary, they will bomb every river bridge from Sinuiju in the east to Russia in the west.

While UNO is considering what to do about the Chinese attack nothing will tempt them to go over the border. They will continue to allow enemy jet planes to fly northwards unmolested as they did today in two of the sharpest aerial dog-fights of the war.

While the raid was on, five enemy jets tried to attack the bombers. They were chased across the sky at 6,000 miles an hour by the American jets.

After a five-minute battle one enemy plane crashed and one fell back to Manchuria leaving a smoke trail.

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Wounded Flown To H.K.



An air lift of wounded British soldiers from Korea to Hongkong started yesterday with the arrival of the first batch of men. This picture taken at Kai Tak shows one of the wounded being removed on a stretcher from the aircraft.—Staff Photographer.

Democrats Control House 232 To 199

Here is a summary of the US election situation on Wednesday night:

SENATE: Democrats kept control, 49 to 47. Present Senate, 54 to 42. Needed to control, 49.

Democrats elected 18, holdovers 31, lost six, gained one in Missouri.

Republicans elected 16, holdovers 26, lost one, gained six in Idaho, Illinois, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Utah and California.

HOUSE: Democrats kept control, 232 to 199, with three undecided, one independent elected.

Needed to control, 218. Old House, 259 Democrats, 169 GOP, one American Labour Party and six vacancies.

Democrats, in electing 232, gained two, lost 23. Republicans, in electing 199, gained 23, lost one, Independent elected one.

Labour lost one. AMERICAN GOVERNORS: Republicans elected 22, lost none, gained six in Connecticut, Michigan, Nevada, Maryland, New Mexico and Colorado. Democrats elected 10, gained

Keeping Empire Intact

Mr Gamman Has A Plan

Our Own Correspondent

London, Nov. 8.

Mr. David Gamman, Conservative M.P., has a plan which he feels may prevent the British Empire falling apart—a fear he expresses to-day in a letter to the Daily Telegraph.

"This plan is to establish there in London a Council of Empire to be attended annually by representatives of all British colonies and members of the House of Commons and Lords. Matters to be dealt with by this Council would include foreign policy, defence, communications, trade, industry and social services."

"Three or four years ago I would not have believed such a Council could be formed," he told me to-day. "But we have seen a similar model at Strasbourg and I believe an Empire Council on the Strasbourg lines could and would operate very well indeed."

GREAT UPSURGE

He points out in a letter to the Telegraph that apart from the disruptive influence of Communism there is in the Empire a great upsurge of Nationalism which demands self-government. The colonies which would have the greatest difficulty in existing without outside capital want complete independence at once.

Mr Gamman says it is easy to condemn colonial politicians as being unrealistic but most of them do not realise that without outside capital their economies would collapse. Few of them realise in addition that a democratic constitution which falls either through lack of experience or on account of political jobbery is inevitably succeeded by a dictatorship.

In the long run the Empire cannot be held together by ignoring the strong tides of Nationalism, he says. "If it is to survive it must be a living personality and growing, and in the minds and souls of colonial peoples as well as ours."

He suggests that the answer to these problems is the establishment of an Empire Council—an abiding partnership of interests—and says a body meeting every year in its own chamber would not only be an abiding link—but enable colonial politicians to contribute their advice and counsel to the problems which are facing all of us.

SEVERE QUAKE RECORDED

Berkley, Cal. Nov. 8. A large earthquake lasting two and one-half hours was reported by the University of California on Wednesday. The quake began recording at 7:30 p.m. Hongkong time. Its epicentre was 6,000 miles from Berkley, probably in the South Pacific.—Associated Press.

Typhoon Veers North

Manila, Nov. 9

A tropical typhoon which had threatened the Philippines for four days veered away sharply to the northeast today as it gained in intensity and speed of movement South of Okinawa.

The Philippines Weather Bureau gave the position of the centre at 8 a.m. Hongkong time as 10.4 degrees North, 129.2 degrees East, with movement northeast at 18 miles an hour.

Winds in the centre have increased to 115 miles per hour and to 95 miles per hour over a radius of 40 miles. Winds up to 55 miles per hour were forecast over a 300-mile radius.—Associated Press.

Mr W.J. Keswick On High Seas

Mr. W. John Keswick, who was prevented by Communist officials from sailing from Tientsin in the Yachow last week, is now on his way to Hongkong, Mr. Keswick called yesterday on the ss Yachow, which is due to arrive in the Colony on Wednesday next.

According to Jardine, Matheson's office here this morning Mr. Keswick's failure to leave Tientsin on the Yachow was due to his desire to complete business arrangements first.

No Survivors

Butte, Montana, Nov. 8.

A ground party today reached the Northwest Airlines plane which crashed in mountains east of here and reported that all 22 persons aboard were dead.

Searchers began moving bodies from the buried wreckage of the Chicago-Battle plane scattered against a snow-covered 8,800-foot mountain peak three miles east of here.—United Press.

Shah Forgives

Paris, Nov. 8.

The Shah of Persia, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, has forgiven his youngest sister, 21-year-old Farouche Fatima, who lost her royal privileges when she married an American officer in the Spring without the Shah's consent.

Huk HQ Camp Destroyed

Manila, Nov. 9.

Government troops destroyed Communist Hukbalahap headquarters camp and killed eight guerrillas, the Army announced.

The Army said government troops surprised 150 Huk guerrillas as they were drilling at headquarters camp on the slopes of Mount Arayat in Pampanga Province. The announcement said one government soldier and eight Huk guerrillas were killed.—Associated Press.

COMMENT OF THE DAY

Bad Day For Democrats

THERE is no gainsaying the fact that the Democrats suffered a severe reverse in Tuesday's congressional elections, and while they retain nominal control of both the Senate and the House of Representatives, their position is something akin to that of the British Labour Party in the present Parliament—they will rule the country more or less on sufferance. Foreign policy was made a surprisingly large issue in this week's elections with the Republicans now vehemently claiming the result to be a vote of no confidence in the foreign policies of the Truman administration. It is probably an extravagant claim, as both Mr. Truman and his Democratic administrators cannot entirely disassociate themselves from the President's policy. It is true that the President may feel that "official" public opinion has been expressed to warrant changes being made in State Department offices. But Mr. Truman will probably resist as far as possible the Republican demand for the removal of Mr. Dean Acheson, inasmuch as all the indications are that he has complete confidence in his Secretary of State. And the selling parcels that, despite the voting in favour of the Republicans, the party's vendetta against Mr. Acheson is based more on personal dislike and less on the conviction that he is an incompetent office-holder. Nor is the removal of Mr. Acheson likely to involve a change in foreign policy on the lines desired. By the time the question of replacing Mr. Acheson is decided, the far East will be in a state of confusion.

part of the world. Nevertheless one effect of the elections is almost certain to be an even greater reluctance on the part of the United States to give support to the admission of the Peking regime to the United Nations as accredited representatives of China in that organisation. It can be expected that the new Congress will demand a tough and unqualified attitude to Communism in all its forms, especially where it is likely to affect American interests, either domestically or internationally. At home, Mr. Truman will find increased opposition to many of his pet "Liberal" social schemes, while he may even have difficulty in obtaining confidence votes on some of his spending programmes. It is possible that the Republicans will seek to embarrass Mr. Truman by demanding cuts in ECA and Marshall Aid, and they will most certainly resist Administration demands for the extension of economic controls. On the other hand, Congress will hardly dare try to pare down appropriations for national defence inasmuch that this spending is the key to the nation's determination to be ready and able to withstand Imperialist Communism wherever it may try to assert itself. The position is that Mr. Truman has ahead of him a Congress technically capable of giving him all the support he requires, but one which will probably strive to water down all his proposals to a point where they no longer represent the desires and intentions. The President probably has to expect a Congress which will be a constant source of trouble to him.

The Odd And The Unusual

Libon, Nov. 8.
A dog saved the life of 11-year-old Diamantino Jose Domingos when he was buried by the collapse of a straw loft at Evora, according to press reports received here.

The dog kept barking loudly until the boy's parents arrived. Then he kept scratching at the straw until the parents decided to turn it over.

After being buried for an hour the boy was finally found just as he was about to lose consciousness.—Reuter.

AUSSIE LOVE CALL

Melbourne, Nov. 8.
A 40-year-old Australian-born Italian bachelor at Mildura, Victoria, is building himself an 11-room two-story home to help him get a wife.

It is a spare-time job using home-made concrete bricks, but says Mr. S. Murda, "This house will be the most striking in the district and any woman would be proud to live in it."

He does not know when it will be finished—"There's no great hurry," he says.—Reuter.

A POINT OF VIEW

Budapest, Nov. 8.
The Hungarian Communist daily "Vilagos" has a heading for its foreign news column:

"Today's news from the camp of creative peace and from the warmongers' camp."—Reuter.

UNROMANTIC WAR OFFICE

Dinkaria, Nov. 8.
Army chief here is protesting against the number of romantic scenes in a new Indonesian film, "The Love March," a semi-documentary account of the Indonesian struggle against the Dutch for independence.

There is a scene in the film does not faithfully portray Indonesian soldiers because there are "too many love scenes."—Reuter.

OSIEREAT WALKERS

London, Nov. 8.
An osierette walks nearly 1,000 miles a year according to a Sydney, London, cinema manager.

The manager, Mr. John Soper, has a preference for the film "The Osierette" which holds 1,000 people, the girl walks 900 miles in a year.—Reuter.

SHOULD HAVE WAITED

Ankara, Nov. 8.
Nazif Cebecioğlu, judge of Ankara second court, is himself out of the third-story window of his office in Ankara Law courts and died instantaneously.

A letter was on his desk announcing his promotion to be a member of the Supreme Appeal Court.

His brother Ralf committed suicide three years ago.—Reuter.

MASSACRE IN KOREA COAL PIT

U.S. First Corps, Nov. 8.

The North Korean Communists herded 1,288 political prisoners into coal mines and shot them down as the Allied armies advanced into northwest Korea, American officers said today.

Colonel Burton Ellis said the bodies of 700 victims were found in a coal mine at Anju, on the south bank of the Chongchun river.

Col. Ellis said the Communist chief of the coal section blamed by the survivors for the massacre, has been arrested and may be tried as war criminal.

Major Paul Roblee found the bodies of 408 prisoners in air raid shelters in a coal mine near Chaidong, 18 miles east of Suichun. The bodies of 180 South Koreans were found in the tunnel of a coal mine east of the walled city of Yongpyon.—United Press.

Communists Only 40 Miles From Lhasa

Kalimpong, Nov. 8.

The Chinese-led Tibetan People's Army last reported to be 40 miles from Lhasa, is expected to reach the capital shortly, according to reports reaching here today.

It is advancing across the country in a three-pronged drive.

Official Tibetan sources here said that the National Assembly of Tibet had been in continuous session in Lhasa since the week-end.

The Assembly, which is composed of "representative" monks, was believed to be discussing proposals from the Chinese Government in Peking for the future relations between the two countries.

This could not be officially confirmed here.

The Chinese draft proposals were understood to be:

1. China would "not interfere with Tibet's internal administration, but would be responsible for her defence, external affairs and communications."

2. China would station a "military force in Lhasa and along the military routes to protect the Tibetan people."

3. China would "assist the Tibetan people in their economic and educational development."

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14. China would "assist the Tibetan people in their economic and educational development."

Elections A Moral Defeat For Democrats

New York, Nov. 8.

Although the Democrats have retained nominal control of the Senate with their narrow majority of two seats, it was not certain that President Truman could rely on solidarity among all the 49 Democratic Senators.

In the past some "rebel" Democrats have voted with the Republicans on vital policy issues.

Republican leaders in Washington described the results of the poll as a "vote of no confidence" in the Secretary of State, Mr. Dean Acheson, and American policy in the Far East.

They predicted Mr. Acheson's early resignation.

Republican spokesmen forecast these trends in American policy:

(1) A stiffening attitude toward Russia and Communism.

(2) A tighter hand on military and economic aid to Europe.

(3) More insistence on self-help among America's allies.

(4) A greater stress on national security.

Both parties won 18 seats in the Senate. The other 60 Senators were not up for re-election. The Republicans won six seats from their opponents, but lost one of their own.

DEFEATED LEADERS

President Truman's four defeated lieutenants were Senator Scott Lucas (Illinois), the Senate majority leader; Senator Francis Myers (Pennsylvania), the Democratic Whip; who was responsible for ensuring Party solidarity in important divisions; Senator Elbert Thomas (Utah) veteran Chairman of the Senate Labour Committee and chief spokesman in the Chamber for the trade union interest; Senator Millard Tydings (Maryland) Chairman of the Armed Services Committee who went down after 24 years in the Senate.

The loss of these four leading holders was made an even greater blow to Democrat prestige by the fact that only Senator Myers was beaten by a nationally known politician.

He fell to Pennsylvania's Governor, 69-year-old James Duff. In addition to their four main defeats, the Democrats lost Senate seats in California and Idaho.

Mrs. Helen G. Douglas, a former film actress, was swamped in a tide of votes for Republican member of the House of Representatives, Richard Nixon, a hard-hitting critic of the Administration's foreign policies.

Mr. Nixon's work on the House Un-American Activities Committee brought to public attention the evidence which resulted in the conviction of Alger Hiss for perjury.

The Republican tide in California also swept James Roosevelt, eldest son of the late President Franklin Roosevelt, out of the contest for the State governorship. The present Governor, Earl Warren, was re-elected with double the votes pooled for Mr. Roosevelt.

Governor Thomas Dewey had a minor revenge for his defeat in election to his post in 1948. His success was assured from the start of the counting and he finished with a majority of about 600,000 over the Democratic candidate, Mr. Walter Lynch.

The Democrats suffered four losses in contests for State governorships. They were in Connecticut, Nevada, Maryland and Colorado.

But Democratic Senators held two seats in Connecticut and one in Nevada.

REPUBLICAN TIDE
The former Secretary of State, Mr. James Byrne, won the governorship of South Carolina. He had

lost the seat in 1946.

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Bonn Rejects Russian Plan For Germany

Bonn, Nov. 8.

The Soviet proposals for reunifying Germany are quite unacceptable, the West German Chancellor, Dr. Konrad Adenauer, declared today at the opening of a foreign affairs debate in the Bundestag (Lower House).

He considered the French "Pleven Plan" for a European Army with, if possible, the participation of Britain, a most important contribution to the unity and defence of Europe.

He had learned, with full satisfaction and gratitude, of the explanations which M. Rene Pleven, the French Prime Minister, sent to him yesterday.

"M. Pleven assured me that any discrimination against Germany was completely out of the question and that Germany would be treated as completely equal," he said.

Speaking to a full House in the first foreign affairs debate since June, Dr. Adenauer declared, amid applause, that Germans welcomed the United States recognition of its great task in the world and readiness to fulfill this task in the interests of peace and freedom.

A West German contribution to Europe's defence had neither been asked of nor offered by West Germany. Totalitarian States knew only power. He who wanted to negotiate with the Soviet Union must be as strong as the Soviet Union.

"The Germans cannot expect the United States, Canada and the West European Powers to take on themselves the whole burden of defence unless Germany, too, makes her contribution."

He declared recently to move its organisational apparatus back into the homeland for a final campaign for political reforms.—Reuter.

The boy was kidnapped from the Palace to be enthroned, Badrprasad Kolaria said.

The Nationalists' Congress has been functioning for the past year in the Indian border town of Raxaul because of repressive Government measures.

It decided recently to move its organisational apparatus back into the homeland for a final campaign for political reforms.—Reuter.

The Council of Ministers today approved the appointment of General Pierre Georges de la Tour as the French Commissioner of the French Forces in Tonkin, Indo-China. He replaces the Tonkin regional commander, General Marcel Alessandri, who has been nominated to other duties at his own request.

The Council of Ministers also studied the report of General Alphonse Juin, the French Resident-General in Morocco, who recently visited the Indo-Chinese battle zone.

The Minister of Information, M. Gazier, said that General Juin had emphasized the necessity of regrouping the French forces and ending the dispersal of the troops and of accelerating the constitution of the Vietnamese National Army, whose principal task would be that of pacifying the country in the rear of the French advance operations.—Reuter.

NZ. Ex-Premier Gravely Ill
Wellington, Nov. 8.
Mr. Peter Fraser, former New Zealand Prime Minister, had a relapse during the night. He had been recovering steadily from a severe illness.

A medical bulletin issued tonight said that the recurrence of complications had set Mr. Fraser back a good deal, but there was now a definite improvement.

Mr. Fraser was born in 1884. At present, he is 66 years old. He has been in the Cabinet since 1949.

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Queen Mary At Ballet

Accompanied by the Princess Royal, Princess Alice and the Earl of Athlone, Queen Mary went to a special performance of the Festival Ballet at the Stoll Theatre. The performance was in aid of the Royal Academy of Dancing, of which Queen Mary is patron, and to honour its president, Dame Adeline Genée. Queen Mary is seen here talking with Anton Dolin and Alicia Markova.—London Express Service.

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C. V. R. THOMPSON'S COLUMN:

NEVER-NEVER
IS NO MORE

NEW YORK.

SUDDENLY a familiar phrase has vanished. No longer do the American radio or TV commercials or the newspaper advertisements make the promise—"Nothing down and years to pay."

It isn't the "never-never" system any more. By edict from Washington, payment under what America likes to call the deferred payment plan may not be deferred for more than a maximum of 24 months.

To drive away his new car, the buyer must put down at least a third of the price in cash. TV sets, 30 percent of which have been bought on credit, will not be delivered now until 15 percent of the total cost has been paid over and a promise has been made that the rest will be paid off in 18 months.

A promise to pay 15s. a week will not buy a diamond engagement ring or a houseful of furniture any more.

All this is because President Truman's economic backroom boys want to stop the little man buying so much.

Cars and fridges use steel and other metals essential for Forces.

Shortages due to the double demand of military and civilian

production are already boosting prices sufficiently to increase the already vast cost of the rearmament programme.

Risks are out

BUT only the very little man has been affected by the crack-down on hire-purchase. The new terms are not much tighter than those the more prudent merchants demanded before there were any Government controls. All they have done is to shut off the risky dealings of the "dollar-down-and-the-rest-when-you-catch-me" boys.

Until recently ex-Servicemen in most States could buy a £2,000 house for nothing down, and he could spread the monthly payments over 30 years.

Under the new rules, everyone has to pay at least ten percent upon purchase of a home, and the buyer of a house costing £8,000 has to pay £4,000. And limit for a mortgage is 25 years.

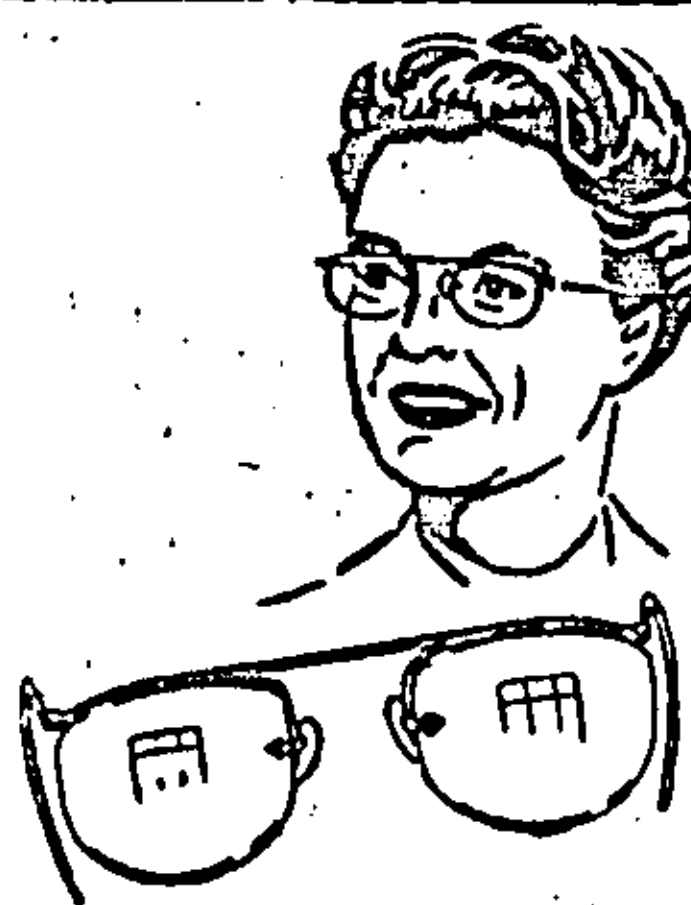
Almost overnight, these regulations have caused a slump. Now cars (any model, any colour), fridges, and washing machines can be had for immediate delivery.

It's old, too

THE hire-purchase system I started with high-class furniture 123 years ago.

Car firms started to use the "never-never" system in 1910—to the disgust of the ever-thrifty Mr Henry Ford. But in 1915, with the return of the army, instalment buying boomed.

(London Express Service)

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WITH CLEAR VISION

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CO-2

DON IDDON'S
DIARYNEW YORK
NOV. 1There's no show
business like an
American election

WHAT is happening here is described as an election. It is also a combined carnival, circus, fun-fair, and fiesta.

Candidates for Congress are hopping from platform to platform in autogiros in Connecticut, riding elephants in Oklahoma, leading torchlight processions in California, crooning hill-billy songs in Kentucky.

The statements, shedding all inhibition, need only pairs of purple tights to become perfect acrobats. Politics have become show business.

This is the final week of the campaign. Next Tuesday voters will elect a new House of Representatives—equivalent to our House of Commons—and a third of the Senate, roughly similar to our House of Lords. They will also put into office a number of mayors and governors. After torrents of talk no one is clear what the issues are.

The key contest

MR TRUMAN, who has still two years to go as President whatever happens to his followers, is acting as if there aren't any, and is keeping out of the arena. He says his Democrats are bound to win. Certainly it looks as if they will keep control of House and Senate, and possibly increase their majority.

Out in Ohio Mr Republican Robert Taft battles to hold his title against an unorthodox opponent, "Jumping Joe" Ferguson, who says: "I'm for the millions; Taft is for the millionaires."

This is the key contest. If Robert Taft loses his seat in the Senate the Republicans will be crippled and their dream of regaining the Presidency in 1952 remote.

Although I haven't a vote as I'm a British subject, it is obvious both parties are after what I haven't got.

All the week comic strips depicting the Democrats as saints and the Republicans as sinners (and vice versa) have been thrust into my hand.

My ears are assaulted every time I pass a street corner by hoarse voices from sound-truck insisting that I save the Republic.

I'd have little inclination to vote even if I possessed the privilege. It is better to be neutral in the gigantic muck-heaving match taking place in New York.

All restraint has vanished. It now appears that Thomas Dewey, running for the Governorship, is a Wall Street front man with Fascist overtones, and his opponent, Representative Walter Lynch, another Wall Street front man, contaminated by Communism.

The two candidates for the Senate, Herbert Lehman, the Democrat, and Joe Hanley, the Republican, are revealed as accomplices of long-standing intimates of gangsters, gamblers, and child-beaters.

Voters bewildered

AND the four candidates for mayor, Messrs Impellitteri, Pecora, Conn, and Ross, turn out to be double-dyed villains controlled by underworld leader Frank Costello and a new mobster called Three-Finger Brown.

Confronted by such a choice, no wonder the voters are bewildered and it would serve everyone right if they stayed at home next Tuesday.

Well, almost everyone. I should like to see Vincent Impellitteri, a fiercely independent man who's doing his level best to clean up the city and break the corrupt machines, sail into office as mayor.

Will Britain be affected by the American election results? Definitely.

Effect on Europe

If President Truman's Democrats suffer a sweeping reverse, the policies of generous aid to Europe will be whittled and trimmed—the Republicans

will see to that. If Mr Truman's party holds or increases its grip on Congress you can expect the same health-giving medicine as before, and perhaps in larger doses.

One man, General Eisenhower, is glad to be out of the political jungle. Unscrupulous use of his name has been made, but he is first and last a soldier, and his selection as Supreme Allied Commander in Europe is a "natural." Eisenhower hasn't been happy as President of Columbia University. He is not a bookish man, he is not a professor, and he has been exploited as a catch-all money-raiser, cheer-leader, glad-hand greeter, and luncheon and banquet toastmaster.

The other outstanding American general, Douglas MacArthur, is also shunning politics, although the more eccentric fringe of the Republican Party continues to woo him. MacArthur at the moment is being deluded in the United States. His stature is godlike.

The eulogy of this Caesar of the Pacific is endless.

America loves a hero, and the worship of MacArthur has become almost pagan.

Lost touch

AGAINST this competition, Russia's Andrei Vyshinsky, who stays on and on and on—maybe he likes the American way of life—is getting an obscure Press. The volcanic orator no longer crumples. He sings and dribbles platitudes. The Vyshinsky touch has vanished.

Perhaps he is perturbed by revelations that as champion of the oppressed masses money has flowed into his pockets. From his books and with his Stalin prizes, bonuses, and expenses he has an income of £40,000 a year.

He also enjoys special privileges—a yacht, a limousine, an apartment, a villa, servants, all free. Not bad, eh, Ivan?

The only comfort Vyshinsky has extracted from recent

United Nations developments is the absurd wrangle now raging over the U.N. flag.

Fortunately, the British haven't been invited into this argument.

Our team is playing mum, although we've some formidable craters here at the moment.

We've Sir Thomas Beecham, for one. Sir Thomas, a ferocious man of genius, is a supreme success here as musician and as a man.

He has dazzled New York, shining more brightly than all Broadway. His baton has flayed the detractors of Britain.

We also have Sir Miles Thomas, chairman of British Overseas Airways. I had a drink with him the other night. "No matter what the U.S. does, we, the British, are 18 months ahead of the rest of the world in jet aviation," he said.

Finally, we have Sir Francis Evers, British Consul-General since 1944, who is due to depart home in December.

Sir Francis is the best Consul we've ever had here. He's won more friends and influenced more people in the United States on behalf of Britain than any of his predecessors.

The British are also winning friends when it comes to entertainment. Our Jenn Simmon is hailed as the best young actress of the year; Elizabeth Taylor, British born, as the most beautiful.

And our Sadler's Wells stars are being pressed to pick up some loose Hollywood change.

Bette Davis, who has made a superb comeback in "All About Eve"—it is better than "Sunset Boulevard"—and Davis is better than Swanson—want's to go to England to make "African Queen" with Katharine Hepburn and Humphrey Bogart.

One of New York's biggest cinema groups, the Translux Theatres, has decided on a new policy—to run topflight British films "in response to heavy demand."

Frederick Lonsdale's "The Day After Tomorrow" made a doubtful opening on Broadway and could close next week.

Disappointment

ANOTHER first night, John Steinbeck's "Burning Bright," was a disappointment. Plenty of voltage, but a dramatic short circuit.

Latest comment on Hemingway's "Across the River and into the Trees"—once you put it down you just can't pick it up.

Jack Lait says the only important change on the face of Europe is that the moustache is bigger.

Footnote: The Communists shouldn't worry about an inferiority complex—they are inferior.

Would you like to live
at Number 11?

TO LET: Highly desirable furnished residence in much-sought-after position in central London. Vacant possession of two floors.

No. 11 Downing Street could be advertised in such terms just now.

"Because the new Chancellor of the Exchequer, Hugh Gaitskell, prefers his Hampstead home to Downing Street, a new tenant is wanted for one of the most famous houses in Britain."

In 1720 Downing Street was described as "a pretty place... fit for persons of Honour and Quality."

Today it is rent and rates free, with linen, silver, and heating provided.

Would you like to look round? Permission to view being granted by the sole agents, the Ministry of Works, you ring the bell in the solid black door with the figures 11 in highly polished brass.

Frank Holt, messenger, who has been at No. 11 for four out of his 31 years at the Treasury,

On the second floor is the Chancellor's flat, with three bedrooms, a white drawing room, and two bathrooms.

Above that are the servants' quarters, consisting of a dining room, two bedrooms, and kitchen, complete with refrigerator.

Furniture supplied by the Ministry of Works, which is also responsible for maintenance, is tasteful but not lavish. A previous tenant once complained that there was neither a piano nor a sewing machine.

Except when entertaining, Sir Stafford and Lady Cripps used only three rooms. Their only staff was a cook-housemaid, Mrs Mallet, and a cleaner, Mrs Devine. Caterers handled any big reception.

There is no servants' entrance. The Cripps grooves, delivered by a van from the Army and Navy Stores, came through the front door like everything else except the dustman.

If past practices are anything to go by the spare rooms at No. 11 will probably be turned into offices.

(London Express Service).



"... If he does come we shan't have wasted those presentation gifts..."

London Express Service

'Remember, Remember
Fifth of November'

LONDON, Nov. 1.

By EDWIN ROTH

Down the ages, generations of children have chanted:

"Remember, remember, the Fifth of November,"

Gunpowder treason and plot. I know no reason, Why gunpowder treason Should ever be forgot."

Manufacturers of fireworks have taken good care that all people remember the Fifth of November.

London is plastered with solemn official notices, signed by Police Commissioners, Sir Harold Scott, reminding everybody that (1) bonfires must not be lit on roads; (2) fireworks must not be exploded in public places; (3) fireworks must not be sold to children under, or apparently under, the age of thirteen.

It is customary for children to put on fancy dress and take their "Guy effigies" around the streets on the evenings before November 5, asking passersby to give them "a penny for the Guy." With this money they buy fireworks to give their "Guy" pyrotechnical cremation honours.

MODERN VILLAIN

For weeks now the streets of Britain have been swarming with children dressed in their parents' cast-off clothes, and with lipstick, grease-paint, or just soot on their faces. They walk around in hordes, surrounded by people in the streets rattling their collection boxes.

Nowadays the place of Guy Fawkes is sometimes taken by a villain of more recent times, who succeeded in blowing up Parliament (and many other places) between 1940 and 1945. I once came across such a "Guy" in Finsbury Circus. It was carried on a pram and was guarded by four grubby, greasy-painted children from Lambeth.

There was no mistaking the toothbrush moustache and black forelock of the dummy. But just in case anyone failed to see the significance, the "Guy" had a notice hung over his chest: "Who? says Hitler has been turned!"

Guy Fawkes was duly hanged, drawn and quartered—it is said that he repented his crime on the gallows—and the loyal Britons began to celebrate the delivery of their King and their legislators.

They have been celebrating on every November 5 for the past 345 years—except during the six years of World War II—when fireworks and bonfires on which effigies of Guy Fawkes are burnt.

SIDE GLANCES By Galbraith

ORIENTAL
AIR CONDITIONED

Take Any Eastern Tram Car or Happy Valley Bus

SPECIAL FOR TO-DAY BY PUBLIC REQUEST!

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IT'S DYNAMITE ON WINGS!

WARNER BROS. PRESENTS
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COMMENCING TO-MORROW: "GAL WHO TOOK THE WEST"

TO-DAY ONLY ALHAMBRA AT 2.30, 5.15, 7.20 & 9.30 P.M.



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FOR GENERAL DAYWEAR

14

There's More To The Game
When You Play Refreshed



Are you a Sizzler?



Your hair gets hungry in this climate. Hungry for the natural oils which soothe, seal and draw from your scalp! If you don't replace these oils you're in for dry scalp and "HUNGRY HAIR".

Just a few drops of "Vaseline" Hair Tonic every morning keeps your hair healthy and your scalp feels better.



S. A. C.



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IN AID OF THE
BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUBS ASSOCIATION



Friday, 8th Dec. 1950
in the Gripps

Tickets now available at the
Hongkong Hotel

CIVILIANS—
Doubles \$50—
Singles \$30—

SERVICES—
Doubles \$50—
Singles \$30—

Is Another World Watching Us? .. Chapter Eight

POSSIBLE POWER SOURCES FOR FLYING SAUCERS

WE can't expose whoever—if anyone—is inside the disc or the tube, or the globe. They certainly are safely encapsulated in their husk or shell and perhaps have to be.

Certainly when you are going at 18,000 miles per hour you'd have to be shut up pretty securely if you are made of anything that we call a body, a living body.

So we shall try to find out their views by watching their behaviour. And to find out their views we shall be on safest ground—where all seems terribly up in the air—if we try to gather what it is that they seem to view. Show me your tastes and I'll tell you your character is an old and obvious motto.

What are they interested in?

When the discs were first seen some of the most interesting sightings seemed to suggest that they—or their directors—might be in a contemplative frame of mind. They brooded quite a bit, hung above and gazed down.

A good example of this was a report of an event during the last week of July 1948. The first story, afterwards carefully vouched for, came from the peaceful, out-of-the-way town of Alice, Texas. Five reputable citizens saw it.

Big and strange

What was the big and strange thing was the time it stayed on view? It seemed to have anchored itself aloft.

For nearly two days it chose to be on view. Spherical, and giving off very little light, the observed came to the conclusion that it was some 5,000 feet up in the air.

At last planes were sent over to investigate. But by then, perhaps not unnaturally, "the patient watcher of the skies" gave up his vigil.

We may ask why did he wait so long? And we may add another question, more pointedly, would he now be let ride quietly on the sky?

The answer to that latter question is, of course, No.

Can we ask ourselves what it is that these visitors want to find out? Obviously they are seeking information.

There is no sign that they are planning invasion. They have let much of their advance stage of their position slip away. The element of surprise has been permitted to evaporate for two years and more.

Let us then deduce what we can know about them from their machines and then from that try to construe their manoeuvres.

Are they at all like us? Yes, they are, and in some wonderfully reassuring ways. Maybe, after all, it is good that we can't see them, for we can the better judge them (in the interval) by their acts.

For their acts are those of one says it advisedly—very circumspect, very intelligent gentleman.

Hard to doubt

There is everything to support such a reassuring verdict and nothing to tell against.

Of their intelligence, that it is day-bright, of the highest standard, of the most penetrating insight and understanding, it is hard to doubt.

All that we long and strain to do in the very height of mechanical and dynamical research seems in their hands.

But to this is added a consideration that seems equal to their power.

Except for the sad accident in the Mantell affair (and then the great ship was in headlong flight from its midday pursuer), these visitors have always, not only tried but succeeded in giving right of way and getting off anyone else's tracks.

They have behaved with a deportment which shows not merely voir-faire but real consideration.

If, then, these visitors had—and had to have—their first views of us from a very considerable distance, what would be their first conclusion? We know that the first photo that has been secured from a film sent up in a rocket that reached 100 miles high showed a great stretch of the South-West of the United States.

You could recognize the Gulf of California into which the Colorado River flows. But, of course, no hint appears on that, the first true and actual large-scale map, no suggestion that this vast stretch of land has any occupants.

With the best magnification and the clearest lens, our proud cities would perhaps show as an ambiguous stain on the landscape—not as striking as a spot of a "mosaic virus" infection that mottles the surface of a leaf.

Stain-towns

We ourselves, "the measure of all things," "the crown of creation"—as we have with modest self-awareness named our presence—we should be far less prominent than a louse.

As then any visitor from far up aloft came "careering down," he would first see our stain-towns. And then, as straight lines, however fine, of amazing narrowness, have a wonderful way of showing up from great distances, then he would see the arterial roads leading to these stains.

Anyone aware of plant growth would suspect that here they were presented with some sort of low lichen, but one that spread a fine filament-system of roots over the surface of the ground to feed its centre.

To understand this one form of rather ill-ordered and obviously rudimentary living organism he, the explorer, would watch with care these rootlets.

Sign of life

Even if they did not grow quickly enough for that growth to be seen, you might detect some kind of circulation of fluid going to and fro in these veins. And the observer would have been rewarded. Minute objects did slowly percolate up and down these fine channels.

Coming close to study this, the first sign of life on an otherwise apparently dead world, the watcher would next perceive the nature of these crawling protoplasmic or germs

or circulatory, free-moving cells.

He would see, as curiosity drew him daringly closer the surface of the planet, that they were low organisms, crouched close on the fine run-way or duct. He would then perhaps be close enough to see that though they moved very slowly they could not keep going for long.

They became exhausted evidently, yawned open along their sides, discharged the contents of their digestive system, closed again their "mouths" or vents and evidently fell to sleep.

When they had recovered from their temporary exhaustion, they would suck into them again—or maybe devour—some smaller creature. After this their strength came back to them and they would bumble off down the circulation ducts—so serving in their blind way the much vaster organism in which they lived and moved.

This discovery of the slowness, the weakness and the earth-boundness of the things that moved in the ducts of the low and sprawling stain-organisms, would make the observer fairly certain that these micro-organisms could not be either very strong nor intelligent.

Open minds

Crouched on the earth, able to proceed—and then only on all-fours—only along these fine ducts, surely such creatures would have no interest save in what came straight in front of their down-beat noses.

They have luminous eyes with which they see their way at night, but these eyes are turned almost always on to the earth. But then having decided that this was the one species with which a visitor would have to deal, the newcomer would suddenly discover there was another species—a kind of rudimentary flying or air-sliding insect.

And what is more, there seemed some evidence that this insect did take an interest in things above it.

Was it possible that it had noticed us, the cautious, far-distance-keeping visitors?

Hardly possible for such a rudimentary animal. But then these who come on new facts. Nothing above all, keep open minds. Nothing must be ruled out in an unknown situation, however improbable, however ludicrous it must appear to a creature of common sense.

Of course then the first wise step is to plot the paths—and no deduce the powers and maybe the purposes of the winged (or fluked) species.

The crouched, crawling species had to have routes, ducts in which to creep. Did the air-sliding creatures also have to follow lines, because, one might suggest, they had to be drawn along fine filaments from point to point?

They were a rarer species than the crawling lice or circulation cells of the earth level ducts. But it was soon clear that they nearly always were moving from one stain-patch to another—yes, they were on some kind of traffic schedule between these stains.

By
GERALD
HEARD

home and had a quiet and final nervous breakdown.

To them a modern street could only be a picture of perpetual temptation of providence, a nightmare of men continually, wantonly, risking instant destruction.

But there can be little doubt that these, the visitors, were learning. They must keep away from us. Give us a wide berth than perhaps they had thought at first they would have to give. But that was merely negative self-advice.

Could they do anything positive? Obviously. Was it not clear that the insect species had some kind of energy, may be topped-over, perhaps no more than a higher protein diet, that gave them the force to get up if only into the lower thicker air-while all the rest of the living creatures either had to crawl along ducts, or lower still—if larger—just sprawl immobilised as did the big stain-organisms.

So the next step would be to find out what were these sources of power. How could the onlookers do that? Even human advance has in the last decade suggested a way, perhaps the way.

In the last few years there has been increasing use of the plane for surveying for ores, mineral deposits, oilfield possibilities.

Unmolested

Instead of stumbling across the rough terrain trying with heavy instruments to locate radiation coming from the ground, trying with such super-balances as the Ertos machine, attempting with gravimetric methods, to gauge what masses of ore etc., may be under our feet—it has been found that instruments can be carried in planes that, riding in the air over such districts, give most useful readings to suggest what is hidden in the earth below.

Let us suggest that the "brooder" that hung for two days unmolested over Alice, Texas, was such an observer. Maybe, he was making soundings in the earth 5,000 feet below him and maybe another 1,000 feet into the crust.

Texas is one of the richest mineral states in the world. Already it has given us much oil. There may be ores in that great district, ores which we are yet too backward to know of their power possibilities.

The visitor may then have been making his soundings to answer the question: How are the winged species—powered; what is their food or fuel?

As we have seen our apparent resentment at such quiet investigation led the

visitors to be more circumspect. But can we think they would abandon all hope of learning of our powers? No, till they know those can they safely approach a creature of uncertain intelligence and even more uncertain temper.

And final speculation—for till we know more we must explore every possibility—not this not unnatural supposition as to "rationally cautious behaviour," account for the one disaster that has marked this "saga of the skies"? Might it not account for the Kentucky tragedy?

Fort Knox, which seems to have been in the centre of this episode, is, as was remarked above, the place where the greatest accumulation of gold was ever deposited by man. It has been guarded as though national safety depended on it.

Oddest dump

The oddest dump on the whole surface of this planet.

Can we doubt that any of our powers and power resources, our ores, minerals, and raw materials would not sooner or later strike the radiation, or gravitational displacement, of this huge dump.

But its existence and its treasure would awake further speculation: further puzzlement. Why do we keep that junk? Do we circulate it? No. Do we eat it? No.

Can it be used as a secret form of power generator? That must be it! So they would make their readings.

It must be radio-active. Perhaps the creatures have found some method to get power, propulsive power, out of it.

After all, one must never understate strangers. Perhaps after all, on one or two points one of the species is really quite advanced.

Fantastic story

But still the gold refused to give up its secret, still it remained stubbornly inexplicable—of no use, none whatsoever completely inexplicable to any intelligent creature that did not know the tragic, bewildered fantastic story of man's illusions and mistakes.

That these visitors may well be plumbing and testing our power resources, we have at least more than a couple of strands of suggestion to deduction. And this, possible knowledge has come through our latest instrument of testing what we can't see—radar.

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(MORE TOMORROW)

Give me men of prejudice

—COLLIN BROOKS

"I HAVE always cherished the wisdom of some American who said. The art of writing is the art of applying the seat of the pants to the seat of a chair." Many young authors lose interest, zest, or invention through the sheer tedium, to them, of the sitting down.

The writer is Collin Brooks—versatile author, journalist, and editor of Truth—who in his book "Tavern Talk" shows no tedium or lack of zest in harvesting his opinions.

He has pity, if sometimes prejudiced, things to say:—

STANDARDS: In youth one admits no flaws in the object of one's adoration, be it writer or woman; in middle life one loves despite the flaws, later one loves because of them.

PREJUDICE: I admit the theoretical superiority as a human type of the detached, objective, and just man, but I prefer the men of prejudice. Think of them: Coburn, John, Maitland, Belfrage, Sydney Smith, Sterne, Dickens,

Gibbon, and a glorious host of other colourful reporters. I like the men of prejudice even when I am prejudiced against their prejudices.

CLUBS: Clubs are my form of thrift. . . . If I did not possess so many I would have to entertain in great places of public entertainment. . . . Visiting such places frequently would mean that each day I should pay two shillings for the privilege of putting my hat and coat in.

My vials and wines would cost me more, and I would then pay around 10 percent on top of my bill in tips. By having a diversity of clubs I save this.

CAUTION: The late Lord Leverhulme once said to my father: "Never conduct an interview of importance without having a third person present."

LORD BEAVERBROOK: One of the most surprising and attractive things about Lord Beaverbrook is his trick of speaking in a kind of aphorism. . . . He has a trick of halting and turning in his walk to flash out something that, if not an epigram, is epigrammatic. "Journalism isn't for old men," it's for young men with old boys' riding "em."

LIKES, DISLIKES: I share with Joad and Swaffer a facul-

ty for arousing intense dislike in certain other people. It is something in the voice, in the pose and pose, in the firmness with which opinions are uttered rather than the opinions themselves: it is Doctor Fellism. One can do nothing about it. I don't know that one wants to do anything about it.

OPINION: The greatest school- or writer wasn't Wilkie Collins, or Edgar Wallace. It was the writer—or syndicate—called "Shakespeare." Compared with Shakespeare, Peter Cheyney is but a rather daring curate writing for a parish magazine.

DRINK: Broadly speaking, drinkers trust one another, teetotallers do not, and drinkers certainly do not trust teetotallers. . . . Non-drinkers, always seem to assume that men drink for the stimulus of alcohol. They do not. They drink for the stimulus of talk and the sameness of companionship.

POWER: Lord Beaverbrook in talk is generally most forthright, but he can on occasion administer flattery most subtly as when, years ago, he once said to me: "Ministry, aren't changed by Parliamentarians or the Press: they are changed by old intrigues, like you and me."

(—London Express Service)

A FAVOURITE ON ALL TABLES



TAIKOO SUGAR

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INDIA ENDANGERED BY THE JAPANESE

NO great portion of the world population was so effectively protected from the horrors and perils of the World War as were the peoples of Hindustan. They were carried through the struggle on the shoulders of our small Island. British Government officials in India were wont to consider it a point of honour to champion the particular interests of India against those of Great Britain whenever a divergence occurred. Arrangements made when the war was expected to be fought out in Europe were invoked to charge us for goods and services needed entirely for the defence of India.

Contracts were fixed in India at extravagant rates, and debts incurred in inflated rupees were converted into so-called 'sterling balances' at the pre-war rate of exchange. This enormous so-called 'sterling balances'—in other words, British debts to India—were piled up. Without sufficient scrutiny or account we were being charged nearly a million pounds a day



Mohammed Ali Jinnah, head of the Muslim League. A big voice in Indian affairs during the war.

for defending India from the miseries of invasion which so many other lands endured. We finished the war, from all the worst severities of which they were spared, owing them a debt almost as large as that on which we defaulted to the United States after the previous struggle. I declared that these questions must remain open for revision, and that we reserved the right to set off against this so-called debt a counter-claim for the defence of India, and I so informed the Viceroy.

Brave soldiers

But all this is only the background upon which the glorious heroism and martial qualities of the Indian troops who fought in the Middle East, who defended Egypt, who liberated Abyssinia, who played a grand part in Italy, and who, side by side with their British comrades, expelled the Japanese from Burma, stand forth in brilliant light. The loyalty of the Indian Army to the King-Emperor, the proud fidelity to their treaties of the Indian Princes, the unsurpassed bravery of Indian soldiers and officers, both Moslem and Hindu, shine for ever in the annals of war.

The British Government in India busied itself in raising an enormous Indian Army. The two great Indian political parties, the Congress and the Moslem League, were either actively hostile or gave no help. Nevertheless, upwards of 2½ million Indians volunteered to serve in the forces and by 1942 an Indian Army of one million was in being, and volunteers were coming in at the monthly rate of 50,000. Although this policy of a swollen Indian Army was mistaken in relation to the world conflict, the response of the Indian people, no less than the conduct of their soldiers, makes a glorious final page in the story of our Indian Empire.

Invasion threat

The atmosphere in India deteriorated in a disturbing manner with the westward advance of Japan into Asia. The news of Pearl Harbour was a staggering blow. Our prestige suffered with the loss of Hongkong. The security of the Indian sub-continent was now directly endangered. The Japanese Navy was, it seemed, free to enter, almost unchallenged, the Bay of Bengal. India was threatened for the first time under British rule with large-scale foreign

invasion by an Asiatic Power. The stresses latent in Indian politics grew.

Although only a small extremist section in Bengal, led by men such as Subhas Bose, were directly subversive and hoped for an Axis victory, the powerful body of articulate opinion which supported Gandhi ardently believed that India should remain passive and neutral in the world conflict. As the Japanese advanced this defeatism spread. If India, it was suggested, could somehow throw off British connections, perhaps there would be no motive for a Japanese invasion. The peril to India might possibly only consist in her link with the British Empire. If this link could be snapped surely India could adopt the position of Elze. So, not without force, the argument ran.

Congress Party

The attitude of the Congress Party worsened with the Japanese menace. This became very clear when in February, 1942, Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek and his wife visited India. The object of their journey was to rally Indian opinion against Japan and to emphasise the importance for Asia as a whole, and for India and China in particular, of Japanese defeat. The Indian party leaders used the occasion to bring pressure upon the British Government through the Generalissimo to yield to the demands of Congress.

The War Cabinet could not agree to the head of a foreign State intervening as a kind of impartial arbitrator between representatives of the King-Emperor and Messrs. Gandhi and Nehru. I therefore wrote to the Generalissimo.

12 Feb. 42. We think here in the Cabinet that your suggested visit to Mr. Gandhi at Wardha might impede the desire we have for rallying all India to the war effort against Japan. It might well have the unintended effect of emphasising communal differences at a moment when unity is imperative, and I venture to hope that Your Excellency will be so very kind as not to press the matter contrary to the wishes of the Viceroy or the King-Emperor. I look forward most hopefully to the increasing co-operation of the British, Indian and other Imperial forces with the valiant Chinese armies, who have so long withstood the brunt of Japanese aggression.

In the event the Generalissimo deferred to my wishes, and, helped by the tact of the Viceroy, the ill-timed visit passed off without doing any harm.

Rising Discords

On Feb. 15 Singapore surrendered. Indian politics and the Press echoed the rising discords between the Hindu and Moslem communities. In the hope of creating some common front, proposals had been put forward by certain of the Congress leaders for the recognition of India's sovereign status and for the formation of an all-Indian National Government. These issues were carefully considered

by the Cabinet, and the usual voluminous correspondence passed between the India Office and the Viceroy.

I sent him a personal telegram which expresses the view I had formed about Indian self-government to which I was of course, committed. It was felt by almost all my colleagues that an offer of Dominion status after the war must be made in the most impressive manner to the peoples of India.

Prime Minister to Viceroy of India.

16 Feb. 42. My own idea was to ask the different communities of India—Hindus, Moslems, Sikhs, Untouchables, &c.—to give us their best and leading

Part Eight of Winston Churchill's fourth book of Second World War memoirs, 'The Hinge of Fate'

men for such a body as has been outlined. However, the electoral bias proposed, which was the best we could think of here, may have the effect of throwing the whole Council into the hands of the Congress caucus. This is far from my wish.

This conception of a Constituent Assembly for which each great community and race would pick its foremost leaders was the method I should have followed, at this time and later. It would have avoided dealing only with party politicians.

Reacted strongly

The United States had shown an increasingly direct interest in Indian affairs as the Japanese advance into Asia spread westwards. The concern of the Americans with the strategy of a world war was bringing them into touch with political issues on which they had strong opinions and little experience. Before Pearl Harbour India had been regarded as a lamentable example of British Imperialism, but as an exclusive British responsibility. Now that the Japanese were advancing towards its frontiers the United States Government began to express views and offer counsel on Indian affairs.

In countries where there is only one race broad and lofty views are taken of the colour question. Similarly, States which have no overseas colonies or possessions are capable of rising to moods of great elevation and detachment about the affairs of those who have.

The President had first discussed the Indian problem with me, on the usual American lines, during my visit to Washington in December, 1941.

I reacted so strongly and at such length that he never raised it verbally again. Later at the end of February, 1942, he instructed Averell Harriman to sound me on the possibility of a settlement between the British Government and the Indian political leaders.

The President also sent me at this time his private views about India.

Great confusion

President Roosevelt to Former Naval Person.

11 March, 42. I have given much thought to the problem of India, and I am grateful that you have kept me in touch with it. As you can well realise, I have felt much diffidence in making any suggestions, and it is a subject which of course all of you good people know far more about than I do. I have tried to approach the problem from the point of view of history and with a hope that the injection of a new thought to be used in India might be of assistance to you. That is why I go back to the inception of the Government of the United States.

During the Revolution, from 1776 to 1783, the British Colonies set themselves up as 13 States, each one under a different form of government, although each one assumed individual sovereignty. While the war lasted there was great confusion between these separate sovereignties, and the only two connecting links were the Continental Congress (a body of ill-defined powers and large inefficiencies), and, second, the Continental Army, which was rather badly maintained by the 13 States.

Federal power

In 1783, at the end of the war it was clear that the new responsibilities of the 13 sovereignties could not be welded into a Federal Union because the experiment was still in the making and any effort to arrive at a final framework would have come to naught. Therefore the 13 sovereignties joined in the Articles of Confederation, an obvious stopgap Government, to remain in effect only until such time as experience and trial and error could bring about a permanent union.

The 13 sovereignties, from 1783 to 1789, proved, through lack of federal power that they would soon fly apart into separate nations. In 1787 a Constitutional Convention was held with only 20 to 25 or 30 active participants, representing all of the States. They met, not as a Parliament, but as a small group, with the sole object of establishing a Federal Government. The discussion was recorded, but the meetings were not held before an audience. The present constitution of the United States resulted, and soon received the assent of two-thirds of the States.

It is merely a thought of mine to suggest the setting up of what might be called a temporary Government in India,



Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi—The Mahatma—the influence behind Congress. Spent war years in gaol.

headed by a small representative group, covering different castes, occupations, religions and geographies—this group to be recognised as a temporary Dominion Government. It would, of course, represent existing Governments of the British Provinces, and would also represent the Council of Princes, but my principal thought is that it would be charged with setting up a body to consider a more permanent Government for the whole country. It is a consideration to be extended over a period of five or six years, or at least until a year after the end of the war.

Peace or chaos

I suppose that this central temporary governing group, speaking for the new Dominion, would have certain executive and administrative powers over public services, such as finances, railways, telegraphs and other things which we call public services.

Perhaps the analogy of some such method to the travails and problems of the United States from 1783 to 1789 might give a new slant in India itself, and it might cause the people there to forget hard feelings, to become more loyal to the British Empire and to stress the danger of Japanese domination, together with the advantage of peaceful evolution as against chaotic revolution.

High interest

Such a move is strictly in line with the world changes of the past half-century and with the democratic processes of all who are fighting Nazism. I hope that whatever you do the move will be made from London and that there should be no criticism in India that it is being made grudgingly or by compulsion. For the love of Heaven, don't bring me into this, though I do want to be of help. It is, strictly speaking, none of my business, except in so far as it is a part and parcel of the successful fight that you and I are making.

This document is of high interest because it illustrates the difficulties of comparing situations in various centuries and scenes where almost every material fact is totally different, and the dangers of trying to apply any superficial resemblances which may be noticed to the conduct of war.

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MORE TOMORROW



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I dreamed of a duke

By William Barkley

WHY WAS St Stephen's Chapel suddenly, in 1547, given to the House of Commons as our M.P.'s permanent home? Till then they never had a home. The Reformation was in full swing.

THE MONASTERIES were being broken up, the abbots sold up, the churches looted of their feudal treasures. Dr Maurice Hastings—in a book just published—believes that the reformist Protector, the Duke of Somerset, put the M.P.s in St Stephen's Chapel in order to decorate it.

I DREAMED I met the Duke of Somerset! Bending down I said to him: "You look mighty pleased with things."

I did not bend because I am particularly tall, but because the duke had his head cut off on Tower Hill in 1552 and was carrying it in his hands.

"Hold, my head a moment, William," said his grace, "while I rub my hands for glee." And there he stood rubbing his hands for glee while his head chucked like a billy-on in mine.

"What you laughing at?" I demanded. "It's a serious business, desecration."

"But I am so happy at last," he rejoined. "It has been a long, long campaign, this of mine. As Dr Maurice Hastings suggests, when I turned the Commons into St Stephen's Chapel I thought I would knock the holiness out of it...."

Disappointed

"BUT again and again I was disappointed. For a long time I had great hopes of Cromwell. But the word of God was always on his lips. He failed."

"I was encouraged for a time by John Wilkes. But as sure as I did his best with freethinking and blasphemy, so sure as some Christian souls like Wilkes or Whitbread who by their words consecrated the place, they were again disappointed."

*In "Parliament House" (Architectural Press, 12s. 6d.). (London Express Service)

"The motion is that we sheep and wolves promise never to attack one another, and to show we mean it we sheep will unconditionally stop wearing these dangerous bombs which might go off if anyone tried to bite us!"
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was charged with robbery
and breach of
the Peace.